

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

- 5 A hyperbaric capsule has a base forming a seat that can be enclosed by an elongate  
oval canopy having a large transparent window formed therein. The bottom of the  
front of the canopy is pivotally attached to the front of the base by a hinge assembly  
and can be locked in the closed position on the base by a plurality of latches that are  
conjointly operated by an external lever and an internal lever. The weight of the  
10 canopy upon opening is borne by a pair of side gas or spring struts.